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DAIRY PRODUCTION

1974
October-December
LV #75-11

OKLAHOMA CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE
P. O. Box 1095, Oklahoma City, 73101 Phone: (Area 405) 231-4353

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1974 PER COW PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

OKLAHOMA: Milk production on Oklahoma farms in 1974 dropped only slightly, to 1,137 pounds, as milk cow numbers decreased and per cow production increased. According to the Oklahoma Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, milk production for the fourth quarter (October-December) of 1974 was 270 million pounds, up 3 percent or 8 million pounds from the same period a year ago.

During 1974, the downward trend of the number of milk cows on farms continued with a decrease of 4 thousand cows to the year end total of 122,000. The average number of milk cows for 1974 was 5 percent below the 1973 average of 130,000 cows.

The annual average production, per cow in 1974, set a new record high of 9,169 pounds, 88 pounds above the old record set in 1972. This increase in per cow production can be explained partly by the fact that with the cost-price squeeze exerted on dairymen last year, many felt it economically feasible to cull their herds harder and, thus, raise the per cow production rate.

UNITED STATES: Total milk production was 115,416 million pounds, practically unchanged from the revised estimate of 115,385 million pounds produced in 1973. Milk produced during 1974 was 9 percent below the record 1964 production of 126,967 million pounds. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was a record low 11,221,000 head, down 1.6 percent from the 1973 average. However, the January-December decrease in cow numbers was 0.5 percent, the smallest decline since 1953 when milk cows actually increased throughout the year. Output per cow during 1974 was 10,286 pounds, 1.7 percent above 1973. Output per cow in 1973 marked the first time since 1944 that production per cow had been below the previous year.

OKLAHOMA: MILK COWS ON FARMS, MONTHLY PRODUCTION PER COW,
AND TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION, 1974, WITH COMPARISONS

Month	Milk Cows on Farms			Monthly Production Per Cow			Total Milk Production		
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
	- Thousands -			- Pounds -			- Million Pounds -		
January	138	134	126	710	705	710	98	94	89
February	138	133	125	705	665	680	97	88	85
March	138	133	125	780	760	760	108	101	95
April	138	132	125	805	765	810	111	101	101
May	138	132	124	840	835	860	116	110	107
June	137	132	124	795	765	815	109	101	101
July	136	130	124	795	765	810	108	99	100
August	136	129	124	760	745	790	103	96	97
September	135	128	123	725	690	750	98	88	92
October	134	127	122	740	695	750	99	88	92
November	134	127	122	695	680	730	93	86	89
December	134	126	122	710	700	730	95	88	89
Annual	136	130	124	9,081	8,769	9,169	1,235	1,140	1,137

MILK PRICES DON'T TELL THE STORY

Although all milk prices rose 5 percent during the last quarter of 1974 to an average price of \$8.55, this is almost 90 cents below a year ago. Fluid milk prices, at \$8.72, were up 40 cents from the third quarter but were down 93 cents from last year; while manufacturing milk prices averaged \$7.05 compared to \$7.26 in the fourth quarter of 1973.

The U.S. milk-feed price ratio for December was 1.22, down 22 percent from a year ago and unchanged from November. Nationally, the value of dairy rations was down from November; however, this was offset by a decline in the price of milk.

(over)

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OKLAHOMA: PRICES AND MILKFAT CONTENT OF MILK SOLD TO PLANTS

Month	Milk Price Per 100 Pounds								
	All Milk			Fluid Milk			Manufacturing Milk		
	1972	1973	1974 1/	1972	1973	1974 1/	1972	1973	1974 1/
- Dollars -									
July	5.85	7.15	8.25	6.10	7.40	8.55	4.70	5.55	6.55
August	6.00	8.05	7.80	6.30	8.30	7.95	4.75	6.05	6.75
September	6.25	8.80	8.30	6.55	9.10	8.45	4.85	6.40	7.00
October	6.40	9.20	8.60	6.65	9.45	8.80	5.00	6.90	7.05
November	6.70	9.60	8.65	7.00	9.80	8.80	5.20	7.30	7.05
December	6.85	9.50	8.40	7.10	9.70	8.55	5.30	7.60	7.05
Milkfat Content									
- Percent -									
July	3.43	3.41	3.35	3.41	3.40	3.34	3.49	3.46	3.43
August	3.42	3.44	3.42	3.41	3.43	3.41	3.45	3.49	3.48
September	3.51	3.57	3.58	3.50	3.57	3.57	3.58	3.59	3.62
October	3.64	3.66	3.68	3.62	3.66	3.68	3.74	3.70	3.73
November	3.88	3.73	3.74	3.89	3.73	3.74	3.84	3.71	3.75
December	3.91	3.79	3.76	3.92	3.79	3.76	3.87	3.74	3.78

1/ Preliminary.

1974 BUTTER PRODUCTIONS TAKES LARGE JUMP

The 1974 production of creamery butter in Oklahoma was up 19 percent over 1973 to 25.5 million pounds. Production of ice cream in 1974 was estimated at 7.1 million gallons, slightly above the 1973 level.

OKLAHOMA: BUTTER AND ICE CREAM PRODUCTION

Month	Butter			Ice Cream 1/		
	1972	1973	1974 2/	1972	1973	1974 2/
- Thousand Pounds -						
January	2,215	2,877	2,780	433	436	390
February	2,100	2,182	1,640	499	516	530
March	2,335	2,003	1,560	582	585	585
April	2,120	1,853	2,400	543	542	605
May	2,389	1,950	2,130	603	674	660
June	1,737	1,441	1,860	684	731	715
July	1,256	1,058	1,330	717	747	725
August	766	1,218	1,640	688	689	730
September	737	1,142	2,190	618	571	575
October	1,350	1,624	2,600	627	685	685
November	2,024	1,855	2,330	419	458	490
December	2,562	2,153	3,050	404	418	405
Total	21,591	21,356	25,510	6,817	7,052	7,095

1/ Includes ice cream produced both wholesale and retail. 2/ Preliminary.



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